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Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity

Grand Sire Archon

April 28, 1999

Archon William T. Chapman
3951 The Hill Road
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Dear Fellow Archon:

When I became Grand Sire Archon in Seattle last summer, I cited three goals for my administration beyond effective oversight of our affairs: to make our newly created standing **Public Policy Committee** the hallmark of our commitment to excellence for ourselves and our people; to appoint a **Strategic Planning Committee** to chart our course into the new Century; and to appoint a diverse array of Archons, including younger Archons, **to serve in leadership positions**. I will communicate with you directly and regularly on my efforts to achieve these goals. This is the first of my "Letters to Archons" designed to open a new channel of communication between the Grand Sire Archon and the Achons of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity.

I am proud to have had the opportunity to appoint a diverse group of Archons to serve on our various committees. They will be identified in a forthcoming issue of ***The Boule Journal***. I think you will observe more young Archons in leadership positions and fewer joint committee appointments, thus **expanding leadership opportunities**.

During the 1996-98 Biennium, I had the honor of collaborating with Grand Sire Archon Anthony Hall to conceptualize a Public Policy Committee to advise Sigma Pi Phi on those policy issues that have the greatest significance for African Americans and those that the Fraternity might wish to address — in accordance with its Constitution & By-Laws. This standing committee was formed by the Grand Boule in Seattle.

I have appointed **Archon Charles V. Hamilton** (Zeta) to chair this Committee and **Archon James Lowell Gibbs, Jr.** (Beta Upsilon) to serve as vice chair. Both are distinguished scholars and authors. The Committee met in New York City on March 11-13, 1999, and organized itself into four substantive working groups: "**Public Funding of Private School Education**," chaired by Archon Gibbs; "**Disparity in Health Access and Outcomes**," chaired by Archon Augustus A. White (Beta Beta); "**Affirmative Action**," chaired by Past Grand Sire Archon Anthony W. Hall, Jr. (Nu); and "**Enhancing Economic Equity**, " chaired by Archon C. Robert Kemp (Xi). The deliberations of these working groups will be considered by the full Public Policy Committee which will make its recommendations to me and the Grand Boule Executive Committee.

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The topics selected by the Public Policy Committee were those that received the highest priority rating by Committee members. As a participant on the Committee, I am convinced that the members made the wisest choices.

In creating the ad hoc Strategic Planning Committee, I said that ***"we must plan for our future and move forward by design."*** I could think of no better person to lead this effort than **Grand Sire Archon-Elect Tom Shropshire** who will be responsible for implementing our strategic plan during the 2000-2002 Biennium. The Committee's vice chairman is Archon John L. Mason (Eta). The Committee met in Atlanta, April 9-10, 1999, to develop a work plan that will lead to a proposed strategic plan at the 45th Biennium in Minneapolis, July 28 to August 3, 2000. The Committee is planning an initial survey of all Archons to get their views on future directions for our Fraternity.

The **Executive Committee** continues to perform in an exemplary manner, and I am so proud of the leadership we have there. In addition to chairing Executive Committee meetings, I have had an opportunity to visit three subordinate Boules since becoming Grand Sire Archon. While attending Omicron's "Christmas Is For The Archousai" dinner in Minneapolis, I was given a thorough briefing on their **plans for the 45th Biennium**. I was impressed that we are in for a delightful treat in the year 2000 when the reports of our new Public Policy and Strategic Planning Committees will be among the centerpieces of our business sessions.

In the coming months, I will expand my observations on these important matters and share my views on others. Meanwhile, the Executive Committee, our committee chairmen, and I welcome your thoughts and recommendations on ways to make our Fraternity more responsive to its members.

Very best wishes.

Fraternally,

Eddie N. Williams

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